

FEB 1952 51-AAA

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

50X1-HUM

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SECURITY INFORMATION**INFORMATION REPORT
BY CABLE**

REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 25 November 1952

SUBJECT Mobilization in Bulgaria

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE OF
INFO.NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)PLACE
ACQUIREDSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

50X1-HUM

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1. In October 1952, the Bulgarian Ministry of Defense took the following steps in an experimental partial mobilization:

- a. Suddenly ordered a vast recall of all reservists from 25 to 35 years of age;
- b. Recalled to service thousands of citizens; the recall was effected by means of draft cards delivered to those concerned by civilians who were generally Communist activists;
- c. Established a check on the resulting action of those recalled;
- d. Commandeered horse-drawn and auto transport from various state firms together with the personnel to operate the vehicles;
- e. Requisitioned a large number of school buildings to billet reservists;
- f. By means of truck convoys, transported reservists from assembly points to replacement centers; and
- g. Shipped the necessary arms and equipment to replacement centers.

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2. The Ministry of Defense put into operation an efficient and widespread organization for the experimental mobilization by exploiting the cellular structure of the Communist Party down to hamlet and even house level, thereby gathering approximately 50,000 men under arms.
3. During the summer of 1952, all reserve officers, noncommissioned officers, and men of all branches of the service between 25 and 35 years of age were recalled together with Air Force and Army specialists and internal and frontier security units; the recall was followed by a short period of training. The short duration of the training indicated that the recall was an experiment in partial mobilization.
4. From a comparison of the activity mentioned in paragraphs 1 and 3 above with that which took place in 1951, when a partial recall of reserve officers and noncommissioned officers was effected in the Second and Third Bulgarian Armies (which was probably a vertical recall of non-peacetime units) and a census and check of all transport means was made, it may be concluded that in Bulgaria a large and complex effort has been undertaken to study problems inherent to mobilization by means of a series of periodic experimental recalls.

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